



**COMMUNITY UPDATE  
WINTHROP LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE  
WINTHROP, MAINE  
December 2007**

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: Winthrop Landfill  
BREAK: 13.5  
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*The purpose of this update is to inform interested citizens in Winthrop about the removal of equipment from buildings at the Winthrop Landfill Superfund Site, as well as the relocation of the public information repository to the Winthrop Town Offices.*

## **Groundwater Treatment Plant Being Decommissioned**

In February 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to the remedy for the Winthrop Landfill Superfund site in Winthrop, Maine. EPA and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) determined that continued operation of the groundwater extraction and treatment system (GWETS) will not be effective in reducing levels of arsenic, the only contaminant in groundwater which remains significantly above Alternate Concentration Limits, the cleanup targets set for the site. The ESD allows for decommissioning of the GWETS and provides for additional measures to monitor, evaluate, and, if necessary, remediate contaminants that may pose an unacceptable risk.

In November 2007, EPA and ME DEP agreed to a proposal from United Technologies Corporation (UTC) to decommission the GWETS and remove equipment from the groundwater and vapor treatment buildings at Winthrop Landfill.

UTC contractors are currently removing supplies and other items from the GWETS building. UTC contractors will begin removing large equipment from the site the week of December 17, 2007. Activity will be put on hold during the last week of December, then resume again in January. Neighbors may see some heavy machinery on site to remove the treatment equipment, as well as some truck traffic. The bulk of this work will occur during business hours, and all equipment removal work is expected to be complete by February 15, 2008.

The on-site buildings will remain in place, and will be transferred to the Town of Winthrop after all equipment is removed. The Town of Winthrop has not yet decided the final use of the buildings.

## **Ongoing Requirements and Current Status**

UTC continues to perform landfill cap maintenance and all necessary monitoring of groundwater, surface water and sediment. The ESD also requires monitoring and evaluation of contaminants in the flowpaths and at points of exposure, and, if warranted, remediation of contaminants that pose an unacceptable risk. EPA and ME DEP are currently working with UTC to begin developing a plan to monitor and remediate Site-

related contaminants at points of exposure in order to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment, and hope to involve local citizens and officials in these discussions within the next several months.

## **New Location for Public Information Repository**

All major site decision documents are available for public review at the public information repository. This repository is currently being relocated from the GWETS building to the Winthrop Town Offices at 17 Highland Avenue in Winthrop, Maine. EPA expects the repository will be fully available by January 31, 2008. Please confirm availability of the repository prior to your visit by contacting the Town Manager, Cornell Knight, at 207-377-7200, ext. 423.

A repository is located at EPA's Records Center at One Congress Street in Boston, Massachusetts, and can be viewed by appointment only by calling 617-918-1440.

Site information and decision documents are also available on EPA's webpage at:

[www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/winthrop](http://www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/winthrop)

## **For More Information**

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